Hassard-Curley Houses 405-411 Park Avenue Private c.1833

The Hassard-Curley Houses are good examples of Greek Revival rowhouses in the style of the architect William F. Small. Small, a pupil and assistant of Benjamin Latrobe, died in 1832, but many of the architectural devices which he developed were used by the carpenters Thomas Hassard and James Curley on the Park Avenue houses. The recessed blind arches, panels, segmental arches, and corner blocks on the window and door frames were trademarks of Small's work, but were appropriated freely by builders for several years following Small's death.

Survey No. B-2069

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

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7. Description

Survey No. B-2069

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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY:

The Hassard-Curley Houses are a row of four attached, stucco-fronted three-story brick houses built about 1833 on the east side of Park Avenue between Franklin and Mulberry Streets in central Baltimore, Maryland. The facades are two pairs of mirror images, with recessed arches framing the door and window openings and recessed panels above the second story. A continuous bracketed cornice appears to be a later addition. Three of the houses have altered first floor windows and are in commercial use. The fourth house is a professional office.

General Description:

Each pair of the Hassard-Curley houses has side-by-side entrances with a shared stoop with steps rising parallel to the street. The facade of each house has two bays. Above the entrances, the closely adjoining bays are united by a recessed blind arch. Between the second and third floors of the other bays is a recessed rectangular panel.

The original windows of the first floor in each house were 6/6, as are those of the upper stories in all four houses. In the early 1920's, No. 411 was altered for commercial use with the addition of a plate glass display window with a transom and plain entablature. The double recessed blind arch is still visible above the entablature. Later in the 20th century, the same display window was added to Nos. 407 and 409. No. 405 retains its original 6/6 window. The doorways of each house except No. 405 have also been altered. The foyer spaces are open for access to the first floor shops via new openings in the foyer walls. The door of No. 405 has a paneled base and six lights. A circular fire insurance marker is located above the blind arch of the doorways of Nos. 405-407.

The original marble stoop at Nos. 405-407 has been painted red and has a fine cast iron railing. The stoop at Nos. 409-411 was replaced in the early 20th century with stone facing, possibly concealing concrete, and a modern hand railing. The stone base of the entire row is painted red. The cornice of the Hassard-Curley Houses appears to be a later addition because of its large scale and Renaissance Revival decorative detail. It is currently painted muted gold.

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Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SUMMARY:

The Hassard-Curley Houses are good examples of Greek Revival rowhouses in the style of the architect William F. Small. Small, a pupil and assistant of Benjamin Latrobe, died in 1832, but many of the architectural devises which he developed were used by the carpenters Thomas Hassard and James Curley on the Park Avenue houses. The recessed blind arches, panels, segmental arches, and corner blocks on the window and door frames were trademarks of Small's work, but were appropriated freely by builders for several years following Small's death.

History and Support:

The present 400 block of Park Avenue was part of the John Eager Howard property at the beginning of the 19th century. During the late 1820's, the estate was passed on to Howard's sons, who continued the sale of building lots begun by their father in the first years of the century. The block bounded by Cathedral, Franklin, Mulberry, and Park Streets remained undeveloped until the early 1830's. Land records show that Thomas Hassard and James Curley purchased or leased the entire southwest corner of the block from three of the Howard heirs. The city directories of 1832 list Hassard and Curley as carpenters. We can reasonably assume that they erected the row of four houses as a speculative investment.

The builders gave the houses a current look by the use of several motifs developed by William F. Small. Small, the son of the City's mayor, and an assistant and pupil of Benjamin Latrobe, died in May 1832. He attained in his short career a moderate level of local fame with commissions for several public buildings and the completion of Latrobe's Basilica of the Assumption and Exchange Building. Among his last works were the Archbishop's House on North Charles Street (1829), the Joshua Cohen House (1830; demolished), also on North Charles, and Folly Quarter (1831), a country estate near Ellicott City. These houses featured recessed blind arches, segmental arches and articulated window and door openings, as a the Hassard-Curley Houses.

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The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

Section 4: Owner of Property

405: Eleanor R. and Jerome J. Joyce 405 Park Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21201 685-3409

407-411: Martin J. Frederick c/o B.J. & G.W. Frederick Inc. 115 W. Saratoga Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201 752-6400

Section 5: Location of Legal Description Deed References: 405: RHB 2395/71

407: SCL 5015/213 409-411: SCL 3530/550 Description, continued. Page 2

The exposed north elevation of the row reveals a five course American bond wall on a coursed stone base. The roof slopes from west to east and the north edge of the roof is broken by two rebuilt chimneys with triple flues. There is no visible evidence of a change from gable to sloped roof in the brickwork. A pair of 4/4 windows with jack arches are located in the third story. A larger 4/4 window with a steel fire escape is at the second story level. A 1/1 window in the first floor is near the northeast corner. This window has security bars.

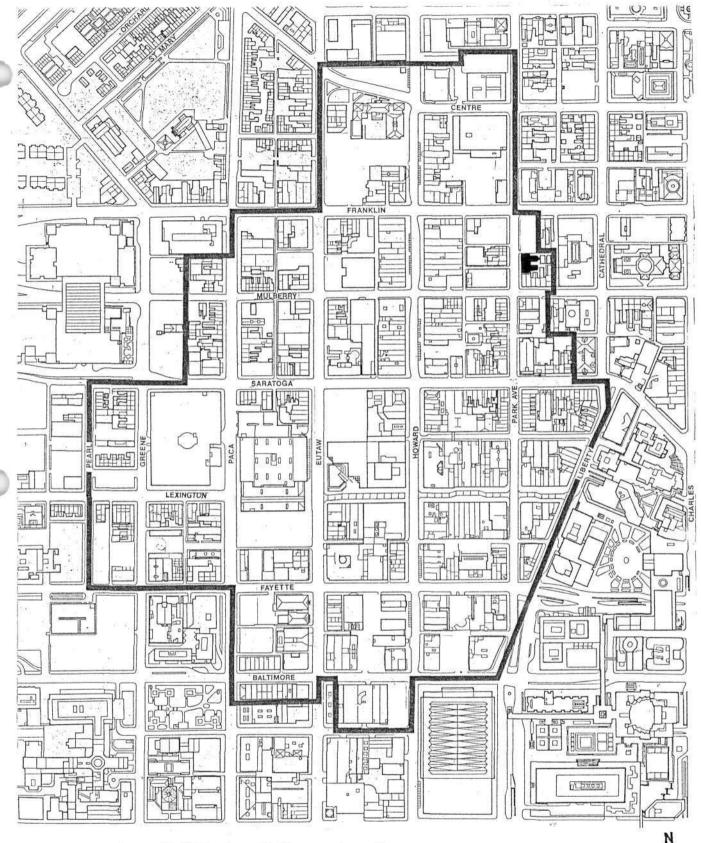
The rear wing of the north house, No. 411, is also exposed and consists of two sections, possibly built at different times. The section adjoining the main house is slightly set back from the north and has three bays on the ground floor. One is a doorway and the other openings are barred 1/1 windows. The upper floors have two bays and 6/6 windows. The second section of the rear wing has two bays on all floors, a single door on the ground floor, and 6/6 windows. All openings in the rear wing have flat arches. The 7-course American bond brick has been repointed and the lower courses are stuccoed. The rear wing has a wood exterior staircase attached to its east end and a brick wall connects the wing to a two-story brick structure of unknown purpose. This in turn adjoins two modern brick one-story garages. The south elevation of the row faces a four-foot wide alley and has two windows at the third floor level.

8. Significance, cont'd. Page 2

In the early 20th century, the houses were sometimes attributed to Latrobe because of the recessed arches framing the window openings, as Latrobe had done on the Basilica. Robert Alexander's article on Small published in 1961 (See Section 9, Bibliography) indicated that the Park Avenue houses were most probably copies of Small's devices, a conclusion based on the lower quality of workmanship of the window frames and the apparent date of construction.

Hassard and Curley split the ownership of the four houses in 1836, with Hassard retaining Nos. 405-407 and Curley Nos. 409-411. The houses were owned as investment properties throughout their history except No. 407. This was the home of Leonce Rabillon, a French professor at Johns Hopkins University, from 1868 until his death in about 1887. His son, also named Leonce, lived at 407 from 1868 until 1928, first with his mother and later with his wife. The younger Rabillon was an insurance agent who became the local Consul for Uruguay, Brazil, and France.

By the early 20th century, the other houses were primarily rooming houses, following the trend of residential buildings in the central city. In 1920, Martin J. Frederick purchased Nos. 409-411 and by 1922 had occupied No. 411 as the office of his business, Park Plumbing and Heating. Frederick installed the first plate glass window in the row at about the same time. Until this alteration, the houses retained their original appearance with the exception of the heavy cornice, which apparently dates from the late 19th century. Frederick eventually made the same window change to No. 409 and No. 407, which he acquired later. The upper floors continued in use as rooming houses and No. 405 eventually became a commercial property also, but has retained its original window on the first story. The Hassard-Curley Houses are currently used as combined commercial and rental residential properties. No. 411 houses a beauty salon, No. 409 has a flag and pennant shop, and No. 407 is the office of a black religious publication. No. 405 is a law office.



Baltimore Metrocenter Survey Market Center Hassard-Curley Houses 405-411 Park Avenue B-2069



Hassard-Curley Houses B-2069
405-411 Park Avenue
June 1939, James W. Foster, photographer
Source: Pratt Library Maryland Dept.
Photo Collection



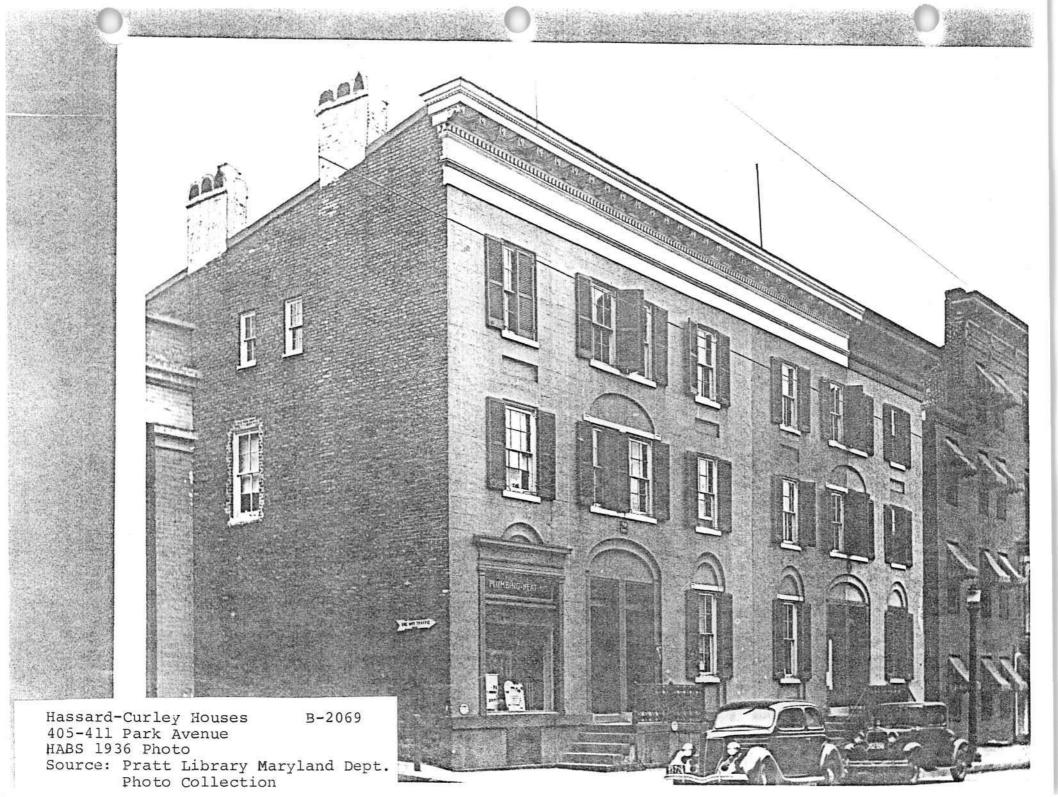
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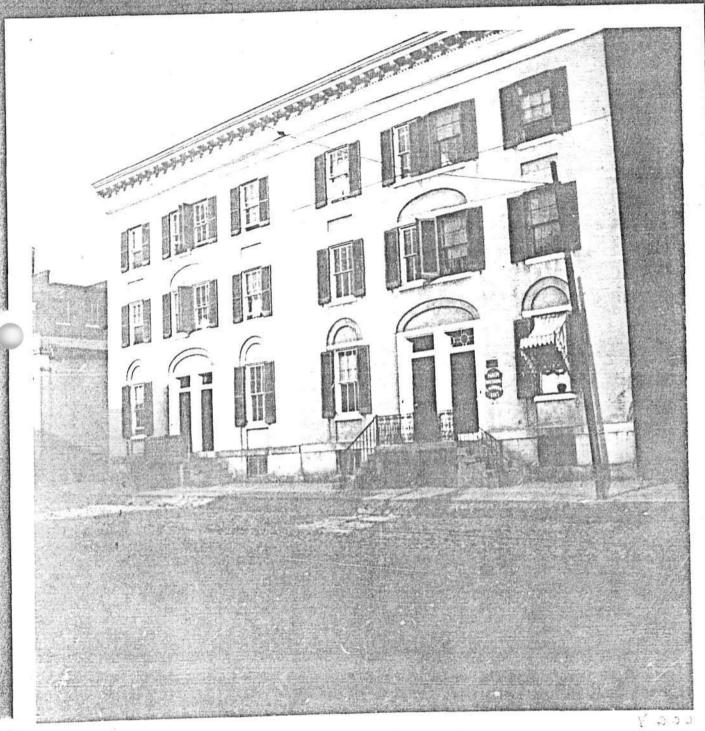
June 1939, James W. Foster, Photographer Source: Pratt Library Maryland Dept. Photo Collection



Hassard-Curley Houses 405-411 Park Avenue

June 1939, James W. Foster, photographer Source: Pratt Library Maryland Dept. Photo Collection .





Hassard-Curley Houses B-2069
405-411 Park Avenue
Ca. 1910, L. H. Fowler, photog.
Source: Pratt Library Maryland Dept.
Photo Collection



Hassard-Curley Houses B-2069
405-411 Park Avenue
Market Center - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
September 1985
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
West elevation
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Hassard-Curley Houses B-2069
405-411 Park Avenue
Market Center - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
January 1986
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Northwest corner view

2/2

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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405,407,409,411 Park Ave.
Facade facing Library Court:

This facade is divided into five sections, all attched, but seemingly

built as additions. For overall view, see photo labelled #4.

Working from the Park Ate. back, the first section is made of English Garden brick. The 2 small third story windows are rectangular, 4 over 4, flat-arched brick lintels, one brick sill (on window to left) and one wood sill. There is one rectangular window on the second story. It is 4 over 4, wood sill and flat wood lintel. The first floor window is rectangular, one MREXMEN over one, flat wooden lintel, wood sill ,a dn iron bars covering the entire window. The rear facade of this first section has one bay. The third story window is rectangular, 6 over 6, flat-arched brick lintel and a wood sill. There is a brick cornice hidden by a gutter.

The second section in from Park Ave. facade is three stories, and three bays. The walls are made of English Garden brick. There is a 2 level brick cornice made up of headers. All door and window trim is painted white. The third story has two rectangular windows,,6 over 6, flat-arched brick lintels and wood sills. The second story windows are the same as the third story except they are slightly more elongated. The first story has a rectangular door with a flat-arched brick lintel, and 1 wood step. The two rectangular windows to the left of the door are 1 over 1, flat-arched brick lintels, wood sills, and iron bars over both windows.

The third section back from the Park Ave. facade is three stories high with 2 bays. It is made of English Garden Wall brick. The second and third stories each have 2 rectangular winows, which are 6 over 6, flatarched brick lintels, and wood sills. The first story has 1 rectangular window, 6 over 6, with a flat-arched brick lintel, and a wood sill. There is a door with with a flat-arched brick lintel. There is a two level brick cornice.

The fourth section in from Park Ave. is made of English Garden Wall brick and concrete. It is three stories high with a staircase leading to the second and third stories. There is a landing in front of the doors on the 2nd and 3rd stories. There is one first floor window which is painted over. It has a flat brick lintel and a wood sill. There is a broken wood door on the left hand side, which has one stone step.

The fifth section back consists of two garages. They are made of English Garden Wall brick. They are divided in the middle by a small alley which is closed off by a wood door.

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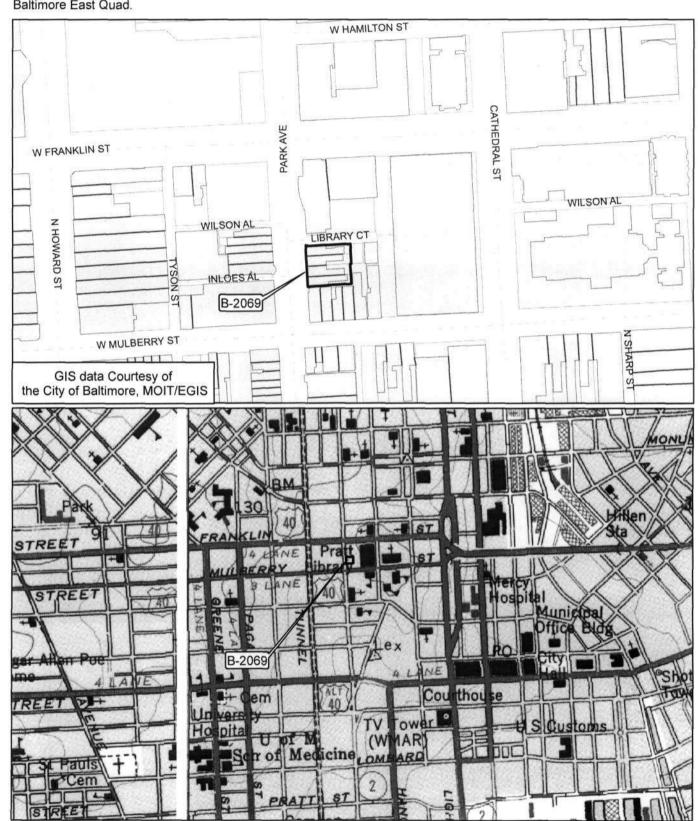
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SCALE 1350 DATEMARCH 1984

B-2069 Hassard-Curley Houses 405-411 Park Avenue Block 0564, Lots 008-011 Baltimore City Baltimore East Quad.





411 Parkthue B-2069

B1K564 Neg 12



409 Park Ave B-2069

B/K564 Neg 13



467 Park Ave 8-2069

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405 PARKAUE #1 BIK 564 Neg. 15

B-2069